

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to place the claims in more conventional U.S. patent format.

Early examination of claims 1-27 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

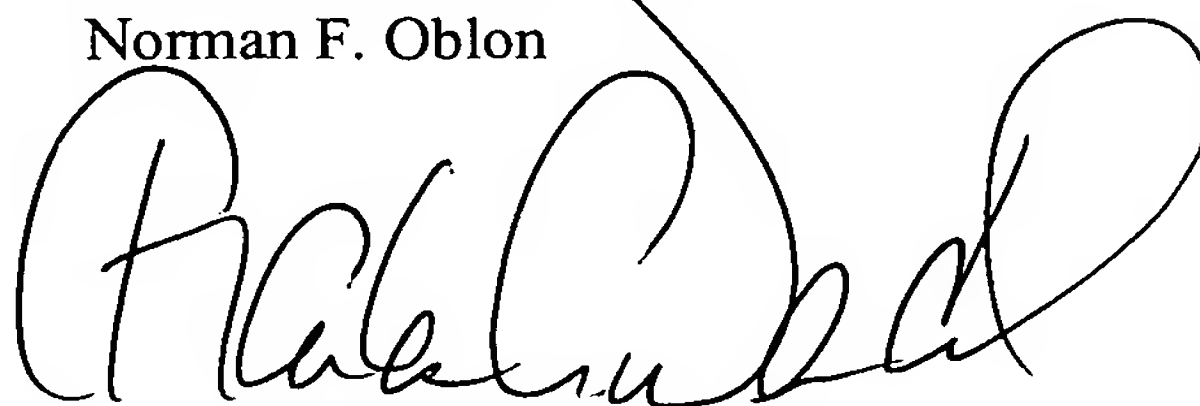
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(OSMMN 06/04)

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Charles A. Wendel, is written over a horizontal line.

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